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base, and the arm sections are operatively juxtaposed about the plane of the line of juncture so that when the pair of arms sections is squeezed together by the initial clamping forces to assume the relatively transversely contracted disposition thereof, the second end portions of the pair of arm sections are reciprocated in relation to one another about the base to first positions thereof in which the pair of second end portions is mutually opposed to one another across the plane and the attachment means form a connection between the first coupling member and the base, but the pair of second end portions is sufficiently spaced apart from one another in the connection that the connection allows the pair of arm sections to be squeezed further together about the base.

13. (original) The mounting device according to claim 12 wherein the attachment means are operatively interposed between the pair of second end portions in the connection but adapted so that the respective second end portions of the arm sections are spaced apart from the attachment means when the second end portions assume the first positions thereof in the relative reciprocation thereof, and the device further comprises means operatively interposed between the attachment means and the respective second end portions to loosely interconnect the attachment means with the pair of second end portions and vice versa when the second end portions assume the first positions thereof in the relative reciprocation thereof.

14. (original) The mounting device according to claim 13 wherein the attachment means include a second coupling member having a body with part spherical surfaces at the outer periphery thereof that are disposed on opposite sides of the plane of the line of juncture to substantially coincide with a second circle of revolution having its center at a point between the first positions of the second end portions of the arm sections in the relative reciprocation thereof, and the device further comprises means forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in the pair of second end portions of the respective arm sections, which engage about the outer peripheral surfaces of the second coupling member in a third circle of revolution concentric with the second circle of revolution but having a greater diameter than the second circle of revolution so that when the second end portions of the arm sections assume the first positions thereof in the relative reciprocation thereof, the body of the second coupling member and the respective second end

portions of the arm sections are loosely interconnected with one another but spaced apart from one another by the differential between the diameters of the second and third circles of revolution.

15. (original) The mounting device according to claim 14 wherein the body of the second coupling member has pressure deformable material therein so that the body of the second coupling member can be squeezed between the surfaces thereof to less than the diameter of the second circle of revolution, and the arm sections are operatively juxtaposed about the plane of the line of juncture so that when the pair of arm sections is squeezed further together by the additional clamping forces, the second end portions of the pair of arm sections are reciprocated in relation to one another about the base to second positions thereof mutually opposed to one another across the plane of the line of juncture and in which the pair of second sockets forms a second ball and socket joint with the outer peripheral surfaces of the second coupling member, so that the second coupling member and the pair of arm sections can be pivoted in relation to one another at the second joint to also position the line of juncture at a selected angular orientation with respect to the other object if desired, and then to third positions thereof mutually opposed to one another across the plane of the line of juncture in which the pair of second sockets engages the outer peripheral surfaces of the body of the second coupling member to squeeze the body therebetween and interlock the pair of arm sections with the second coupling member to rigidify the connection between the respective first and second coupling members at the selected angular orientation of the line of juncture with respect to each of the objects.

16. (original) The mounting device according to claim 15 wherein the pressure deformable material in the bodies of the respective first and second coupling members is resilient and the means for applying additional clamping forces to the pair of arm sections are releasable relatively crosswise the plane of the line of juncture to restore the first and second joints so that the pair of arm sections can be pivoted in relation to the respective first and second coupling members and vice versa, to position the line of juncture at different angular orientations with respect to the one and/or the other objects.

26. (original) The mounting device according to claim 5 wherein the pressure deformable material renders the body of the first coupling member radially compressible at the outer peripheral surfaces thereof.

27. (original) The mounting device according to claim 5 wherein the first sockets have surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof which are adapted to form the first ball and socket joint with the outer peripheral surfaces of the first coupling member when the pair of arm sections assumes the relatively transversely contracted disposition thereof about the first coupling member and the base.

28. (original) The mounting device according to claim 27 wherein the pressure deformable material renders the body of the first coupling member radially compressible at the outer peripheral surfaces thereof, and the inner peripheral surfaces of the first sockets are part spherical and adapted to substantially coincide with the first circle of revolution when the pair of arm sections assumes the relatively transversely contracted disposition thereof about the first coupling member and the base so that the first joint is formed between the respective inner and outer peripheral surfaces of the first sockets and the first coupling member, and then to compress the body of the first coupling member radially thereof at the outer peripheral surfaces thereof when the pair of arm sections is squeezed further together in the relatively transversely contracted disposition thereof to interlock the pair of arm sections with the first coupling member and rigidify the connection between the first coupling member and the base at the selected angular orientation of the line of juncture with respect to the one object.

29. (original) The mounting device according to claim 5 wherein the respective means for applying the initial clamping forces and the additional clamping forces to the pair of arm sections include a pin and hole fastening device for fastening the pair of arm sections together relatively crosswise the plane of the line of juncture, and a clamping mechanism on the fastening device for applying clamping forces to the pair of arm sections through the fastening device.

30. (original) A mounting device for interposing along a line of juncture between a pair of relatively movable and relatively stationary objects, to support the relatively movable object on

the relatively stationary object at varying angular orientations of the line of juncture with respect to one of the objects, comprising:

means for forming a first coupling member on a first of the objects and a base on a second of the objects at spaced first and second loci, respectively, adjacent opposite ends of the line of juncture,

a split arm assembly comprising a pair of relatively rigid arm sections which are adapted to be operatively juxtaposed to one another along the line of juncture between the spaced first and second loci of the first coupling member and the base, and have faces thereon which are operatively opposed to one another across a plane coincident with the line of juncture,

releasable clamping means for reciprocating the pair of arm sections in relation to one another relatively crosswise the plane of the line of juncture to form the split arm assembly into a bifurcated arm assembly which has its apex at the second locus of the base and is engaged about the first coupling member,

means forming a pair of operatively opposing first sockets in the faces of the respective arm sections having substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof which substantially coincide with a circle of revolution that has its center at the first locus of the first coupling member when the bifurcated arm assembly is engaged in a first position thereof about the first coupling member,

the first coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof and substantially coincides with the circle of revolution, so that the pair of first sockets and the first coupling member form a relatively rotatable ball and socket joint in the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly,

the clamping means being operable in the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly to reciprocate the pair of arm sections in relation to one another to a second position of the bifurcated arm assembly in which the first sockets assume a disposition relatively radially within the circle of revolution, and the first coupling member being sufficiently radially compressible at the outer peripheral surface thereof that between the first and second positions of the bifurcated arm assembly, the inner peripheral surfaces of the pair of first sockets can deform the surface of the first

releasable clamping mechanism operable against the bias of the yieldable biasing means to reciprocate the pair of arm sections relatively toward one another at the faces of the arm sections, the yieldable biasing means and the clamping mechanism being engaged with the pair of arm sections in the space between the first and second loci of the first coupling member and the base, respectively, to form the split arm assembly into a bifurcated arm assembly which has its apex at the second locus of the base when the pair of arm sections is reciprocated relatively toward one another at the faces thereof.

32. (original) The mounting device according to claim 31 wherein the faces of the respective arm sections have recesses therein between the first and second loci of the first coupling member and the base, and the yieldable biasing means take the form of a coiled spring which is caged between the respective arm sections at the recesses in the faces thereof.

33. (original) The mounting device according to claim 32 wherein the space between the first and second loci of the first and second coupling members is of such length that when the first coupling member is detached from the bifurcated arm assembly and vice versa, the arm sections can be pinched together against the bias of the spring to separate the pair of second sockets from one another to the extent that the second coupling member can be detached from the pair of arm sections and vice versa.

34. (original) The mounting device according to claim 32 wherein the arm sections have a pair of mutually opposing openings therein at the bottoms of the recesses, and the clamping mechanism takes the form of an elongated bolt which is passed through the pair of openings and has a flange on one end portion thereof and threading on the other end portion thereof, and a knob which is threadedly engaged with the threading on the other end portion of the bolt and cooperable with the flange on the bolt to clamp the pair of arm sections therebetween.

35. (original) A mounting device for interposing along a line of juncture between a pair of relatively movable and relatively stationary objects, to support the relatively movable object on the relatively stationary object at varying angular orientations of the line of juncture with respect to one of the objects, comprising:

the inner peripheral surfaces of the first sockets also being substantially smooth over sufficient arcuate extent circumferentially of the outer peripheral surface of the first coupling member and the first coupling member being sufficiently resilient at the surface thereof, that when the clamping means are released, the pair of first sockets and the first coupling member reform a relatively rotatable ball and socket joint at the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly, so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the first coupling member to vary the angular orientation of the line of juncture with respect to the first coupling member, and

the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof, and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture, which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.

36. (original) The mounting device according to claim 35 wherein the respective arm sections have ends adjacent the first sockets, and the first sockets also have indentations in the respective rims thereof at the adjacent ends of the arm sections, which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the first locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the plane of the line of juncture extends at oblique angles to the first coupling member.

37. (original) A mounting device for interposing along a line of juncture between a pair of relatively movable and relatively stationary objects, to support the relatively movable object on the relatively stationary object at varying angular orientations of the line of juncture with respect to one of the objects, comprising:

means for forming a first coupling member on a first of the objects and a base on a second of the objects at spaced first and second loci, respectively, adjacent opposite ends of the line of juncture,

a split arm assembly comprising a pair of relatively rigid arm sections which are adapted to be operatively juxtaposed to one another along the line of juncture between the spaced first and

second loci of the first coupling member and the base, and have faces thereon which are operatively opposed to one another across a plane coincident with the line of juncture,

releasable clamping means for reciprocating the pair of arm sections in relation to one another relatively crosswise the plane of the line of juncture to form the split arm assembly into a bifurcated arm assembly which has its apex at the second locus of the base and is engaged about the first coupling member,

means forming a pair of operatively opposing first sockets in the faces of the respective arm sections having substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof which substantially coincide with a circle of revolution that has its center at the first locus of the first coupling member when the bifurcated arm assembly is engaged in a first position thereof about the first coupling member,

the first coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof and substantially coincides with the circle of revolution, so that the pair of first sockets and the first coupling member form a relatively rotatable ball and socket joint in the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly,

the clamping means being operable in the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly to reciprocate the pair of arm sections in relation to one another to a second position of the bifurcated arm assembly in which the first sockets assume a disposition relatively radially within the circle of revolution, and the first coupling member being sufficiently radially compressible at the outer peripheral surface thereof that between the first and second positions of the bifurcated arm assembly, the inner peripheral surfaces of the pair of first sockets can deform the surface of the first coupling member to interlock the bifurcated arm assembly with the first coupling member and vice versa, but

the inner peripheral surfaces of the first sockets also being substantially smooth over sufficient arcuate extent circumferentially of the outer peripheral surface of the first coupling member and the first coupling member being sufficiently resilient at the surface thereof, that when the clamping means are released, the pair of first sockets and the first coupling member reform a relatively rotatable ball and socket joint at the first position of the bifurcated arm assembly, so that

the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the first coupling member to vary the angular orientation of the line of juncture with respect to the first coupling member, and

the first sockets having rims formed thereabout at the faces of the respective arm sections and cruciate grooves at the inner peripheries thereof subdividing the part spherical surfaces thereof into four relatively smaller part spherical surfaces apiece, each of which terminates at the groove in the respective first socket and the rim thereabout.

38. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Amended): An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface and having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof;

first and second arm sections formed with operatively opposed first sockets in respective first end portions thereof, the first sockets having opposing concave interior faces shaped to substantially conform to the substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface of the coupling member, and having rims formed thereabout at the faces of the respective first sockets, and indentations in the respective rims thereof which are greater in width than the neck so that the arm sections can be rotated about the coupling member to angular orientations in which the arm sections extend at a right angle to the neck of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp configured and arranged to provide a plurality of different adjustment relationships to the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets in an interlocking relationship with the coupling member, wherein the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets radially compress and deform at least a portion of the resilient deformable material of the coupling member.

an adjustable clamp mechanically attached to the respective arm sections and configured and arranged to position the sockets in a plurality of opposing relationships to one another,

one adjustment of the clamp positioning the sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and relatively rotatable thereto, and

another adjustment of the clamp positioning the sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and compressing the radially compressible material thereof to interlock the sockets with the coupling member in a relative angular orientation.

62. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 43 wherein the coupling member is substantially centered on a first locus; and

the first and second arm sections form a bifurcated arm assembly having an apex at a second locus spaced apart from the first locus and having the first sockets substantially centered on the first locus and engaged about the coupling member.

63. (Amended): An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material in a substantially smooth part spherical shape centered on a first locus and having a neck portion extending outside the spherical shape;

a split arm assembly comprising at least two arm sections and having first sockets formed of opposing concave interior surfaces centered on the first locus, the opposing concave interior surfaces being shaped to substantially conform to the substantially smooth part spherical shape of the coupling member and being engaged about the coupling member, the first sockets having rims formed thereabout at the surfaces and indentations in the respective rims thereof, the indentations are greater in width than the neck portion so that the split arm assembly is rotatable about the first locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the split arm assembly extends at a right angle to the neck portion of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to the split arm assembly, the adjustable clamp being configured and arranged to provide a plurality of different adjustment relationships to the first sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the first sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the first sockets in an interlocking relationship with the coupling member.

64. The mounting device according to claim 35 wherein the releasable clamping means further comprises matching internally and externally threaded members.

65. (Amended) The mounting device according to claim 64 wherein the externally threaded member comprises an elongated threaded rod, and the matching internally and externally threaded members are structured for relative rotational motion for moving the internally threaded member along a length of the externally threaded member.

66. The mounting device according to claim 65 wherein the internally threaded member further comprises a knob.

67. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 43 wherein the adjustable clamp further comprises mutually engageable internally and externally threaded members.

68. (Amended) The mounting device according to claim 67 wherein the externally threaded member further comprises a threaded rod, and the mutually engageable internally and externally threaded members are structured for relative rotational motion for moving the internally threaded member along a length of the externally threaded member.

69. The mounting device according to claim 68 wherein the internally threaded member further comprises a knob.

70. (New) A mounting device, comprising:

a coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

87. (New) The mounting device of claim 86, wherein the disc-shaped base of the coupling member defines three openings in the base forming an equilateral triangle.

88. (New) The mounting device of claim 80, wherein the coupling member further comprises a disc-shaped base coupled to the neck.

89. (New) The mounting device of claim 88, wherein the disc-shaped base of the coupling member defines three openings in the base forming an equilateral triangle.

90. (New) The mounting device of claim 89, wherein the resilient deformable material of the coupling member is an elastomeric material.

91. (New) A method of operating a mounting device, the method comprising:
providing a mounting device comprising

a first coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

a base comprising a second coupling member, the second coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

a plurality of arm sections, at least two of the arm sections forming first sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections and at least two of the arm sections forming second sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections, the first and second sockets comprising substantially smooth interior surfaces; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to at least two of the plurality of arm sections;

forming second sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections, the first and second sockets comprising substantially smooth interior surfaces; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to at least two of the plurality of arm sections;

adjusting the adjustable clamp so that the first sockets and first coupling member are interlocked, with the first sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the first coupling member, and the second sockets and second coupling member are interlocked, with the second sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the second coupling member; and

adjusting the adjustable clamp so that the first sockets and first coupling member are rotatably engaged, wherein the first coupling member is not removable from the first sockets and the second coupling member is removable from the second sockets.